

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 /050 W

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R 301615Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

473#:4/AMEMBASSY LOME 1891

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 5000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN NG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EVANGELISTS IN NIGER (COVERT)

REF: NDJAMENA 2421, BAMAKO 3589, NOUAKCHOTT 1955

1) FOR THE RECORD, WISH TO REPORT PRESENCE IN NIGER OF AN AMERICAN AND A JAPANESE NATIONAL CLAIMING BUESINESS CONNECTIONS, BUT LACKING ANY CONVINCING CREDENTIALS OR FACILITY IN FRENCH, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY AFFILIATED WITH SUN MEUNG MOON EVANGELISTS NOTED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. JAMES MCCANN, ASH-BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES, IN EARLY TWENTIES, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IN NIGER FOR FIVE MONTHS DOING MARKET SURVEY FOR JAPANESE TRADING HOUSE, KHOSHIN SHOJI CO., LTD., INTERESTED IN IMPORTING SMALL ENGINES AND PUMPING MACHINES INTO NIGER. MCCANN ALSO CLAIMS TO BE INTERESTED IN IMPORTING ART ITEMS INTO U.S. HE WAS RECENTLY JOINED IN COUNTRY BY TATSUO SASAKI, WHO CLAIMS

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TO BE A JAPANESE NATIONAL AND COMMERICAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR KHOSHIN.

2) MCCANN WAS FIRST SEEN IN FRINGES OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN AUGUST AT WHICH TIME HE APPROACHED EMBASSY TO ASK ASSISTANCE WITH VISA EXTENSION TO PROMOTE SALES OF GINSENG TEA. WE DEMURRED THIS REQUEST, AND MCCANN THEN DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. ON DECEMBER 23 MCCANN AND TATSUO AGAIN VISITED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS WITH COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSSIBILITIES OF REGISTERING AS BUSINESS MEN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A BUSINESS VISA FOR MCCANN, WHO PRESENT VISA WILL EXPIRE JANUARY 1976. TATSUO ALREADY HOLDS A 6-MONTH BUSINESS VISA. GIVEN GINSENG TEA CONNECTION AND RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN KHOSHIN SHOJI CO., LTD., AND KOHSHIN ORGANIZATION MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, WE ASSUME MCCANN AND TATSUO ARE MEMBERS OF THE REV. SUN MOON EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT.

3) WE INTEND CONTINUE GIVEN MCCANN POLITE BUT ARMS LENGTH TREATMENT, WITHOUT INDICATING WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT HIS BONA FIDES OR SUSPICION ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES IN NIGER. HECK

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